

## Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides an inspection apparatus and inspection method. The inspection apparatus provided by the present invention comprises an illumination optical system which illuminates light to an object under inspection; a detection optical system which detects light reflected from said object and converts the detected light into an image signal; a spatial filter which is provided in said detection optical system to selectively shield diffracted light pattern coming from a circuit pattern existing on the object by combining light-shielding points of minute dots state; an arithmetic processing system which processes the image signal detected by said detection optical system; and a monitor which observes foreign matters/defects based on a signal processed by said arithmetic processing system.